(d) whether the existing toilets are in a dilapidated state, particularly in Delhi, with unbearable stench suggesting inadequate maintenance and unsafe conveniences for the ladies; and

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Public toilets are provided and maintained in metro cities by the municipal bodies. Due to intensive usage, these toilets are sometimes not in the desired levels of cleanliness and hygienic conditions. The municipal bodies are increasingly outsourcing the operation and maintenance of public toilets to expert agencies. This has resulted in overall improvement in the upkeep and maintenance of these toilets.

(b) As per the information available with the Ministry, no such standards have been prescribed.

(c) The number of public toilets in Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata are as nder:—

Sl. No.	Name of City	No. of Toilets (approx.)	Population (in lakhs)
1.	Mumbai	12600	122
2.	Delhi	2021	130
3.	Chennai (city)	799	47
4.	Kolkata (city)	750 Urinals + 126 Pay and use toilet complexes	45

(d) and (e) As per information received from Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), public toilets are being maintained properly.

The maintenance of toilets complexes has been given to M/s Sulabh International by MCD for a period of 30 years.

Double laning of bridge over Yamuna at Wajirabad

†*277. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 28 children died untimely in the bus accident on the bridge on Yamuna, very busy area of Wajirabad in the capital;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government had announced to make the Wajirabad bridge double laned but despite the passing of 8th death anniversary of those children on 18th November, 2005, the work of doubling of the bridge has not been initiated, so far, and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that many flyovers have been constructed in the capital after this fatal accident but despite such a tragedy; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in commencement of the construction work of the above bridge?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Commissioner of Police, Delhi has reported that a road accident had occurred in the month of November, 1997 on Wajirabad bridge in which a number of school children had died.

(b) The Public Works Department (PWD) of Government of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD) has reported that initially there was a proposal to increase the width of the existing bridge. However, after technical feasibility studies, the proposal for constructing a separate bridge along the downstream side of the existing bridge was found suitable. Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (DTTDC) has prepared detailed project estimates and submitted the same to the Government of NCT of Delhi for approval/sanction, the completion period fo the project is about 3½ years after the approval of the project.

(c) and (d) It is a fact that flyovers have been constructed in Delhi even after 1997. However, as reported by PWD, Delhi construction of a bridge over river Yamuna is a bigger project in comparison to flyovers on road and requires detailed studies and clearances from several agencies. Therefore, it involves a longer gestation period.

Low standard of education

†*278. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the existing schools education and distance education system is of low standard;

(b) if so, Government's assessment in this regard;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.